

# metro

NEW YORK CITY NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE U.S.  
Thursday, December 17, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



## THE 'EMPRYOR STRIKES BACK'

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Wrap your  
(finally!) cold  
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# GRAY

# AREA



After a hung jury in the  
manslaughter prosecution of  
a cop in the Freddie Gray case,  
New York defense attorneys  
questioned Baltimore  
prosecutors' tactics. 10



Protesters march through the streets after a  
mistrial was declared in the trial of Baltimore  
Police Officer William G. Porter. GETTY IMAGES

## ISLAMIC STATE FIGHT

**1** U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Iraqi leaders on Wednesday discussed the idea of greater U.S. contributions to the fight against Islamic State, including an offer of attack helicopters to help retake territory from the insurgent group. Carter said Washington is willing to do more to support Iraqi security forces as they battle Islamic State. **REUTERS**



## SAN BERNARDINO VISIT

**2** President Barack Obama will travel on Friday to San Bernardino, California, the site of the Dec. 2 shooting by a radicalized Muslim couple that claimed 14 lives, the White House said on Wednesday. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama will meet with families of the victims while in San Bernardino. The FBI believes U.S.-born Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his Pakistani-born wife Tashfeen Malik, 29, had been radicalized for some time before opening fire on Farook's co-workers. **REUTERS**

## WILMORE TO HOST EVENT

**3** The White House Correspondents' Association said Comedy Central late-night host Larry Wilmore would headline its annual April dinner, known for its playful ribbing of politicians and the news media. The host of "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" will be the main performer, the association said. **REUTERS**



## SANTA ON ICE

**7** Santa Claus from "Elf the Musical" attends the opening of the VIP Igloo at the Rink at Rockefeller Center on Wednesday.

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## GOOGLE DRIVERLESS CARS

**4** Google plans to make its self-driving cars unit, which will offer rides for hire, a stand-alone business under its parent company, Alphabet Inc., next year, Bloomberg reported. The service could be launched in San Francisco and Austin, Texas, locations, where it has tested the cars extensively, Bloomberg said, citing a person briefed on the strategy. **REUTERS**



## \$5M IN JEWELS TRASHED

**5** After workers mistakenly left \$5 million in jewels for trash collection, a Manhattan security guard has now been charged with retrieving the jewels after they were accidentally discarded. Employees at J. Birnbaum Inc.'s Fifth Avenue store thought three wooden boxes containing jewels were meant for trash collection, ABC reported, so they left the boxes with the outgoing garbage. Surveillance video, though, reportedly shows 47-year-old security guard Wilfred Martinez going through boxes in the hallway. **JASON NUCKOLLS**

## TEEN'S FACE SLASHED

**6** A 16-year-old girl was attacked in Queens Wednesday morning by a man wielding a knife. The victim was pushed by the attacker and then slashed from her ear to her throat with a box cutter, reports said. The 16-year-old girl was walking to school in Whitestone at about 8:20 a.m. when the suspect attacked her from behind. **MATT LEE**





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Women wait for the 7 train. BESS ADLER

# Sex crimes on subway leave women feeling unsafe

A 15-year-old girl was harassed twice within a week by the same man.

TRACY LEE  
@MetroNewYork  
letters@metro.us

As reports of sex crimes on the subway rose, a 15-year-old girl was grabbed by a stalker on the same subway platform twice in one week.

Last Wednesday, the girl reported that a man on the platform of the Atlantic Avenue station stared at her, then followed her and approached her, grabbed her arm and told her to go with him. The victim refused, and the man fled, the NYPD said.

On Tuesday, the suspect tried again on that very same platform.

This incident comes on the heels of an NYPD report Tuesday that revealed a nearly 20 percent increase in subway sex crimes this year as police cited sexual touching, lewd behavior and voyeurism as the most common offenses.

It doesn't surprise Vincenza Carovillano, a 48-year-old Bronx makeup artist, who has continued to notice these predators since an incident that happened to her almost 20 years ago.

Carovillano recalled an instance in her 20s that has changed how she commutes late at night.

"He followed me into my doorway from the train car, thank God I had a neighbor come down, and heard me screaming ... it's scary," she said.

The man was groping himself, Carovillano said.

She now chooses to take a \$7.50 express bus from midtown, once she finishes up work.

"You don't want to put yourself in that situation, it's a lot of money, but it's so much safer," Carovil-

**20%**  
INCREASE IN SUBWAY  
SEX CRIMES THIS YEAR





Images taken of the Atlantic Avenue station suspected stalker PROVIDED

*"I feel  
as girls  
are so into  
their own  
world,  
people  
look for  
that,  
people are  
predators."*

Carovillano

lano said.

She credits age and having a stronger sense of her surroundings as critical.

"As a young girl, I wasn't aware. ... I feel as girls are so into their own world, people look for that. People are predators," she said.

Amanda Cruze, a 23-year-old from Queens, said a man touched her last year on a downtown subway platform.

"I was really scared because there were no other passengers," Cruze said.

Because of that incident, she now chooses to ride Uber over any subway late at night.

According to the NYPD, the uptick of complaints and arrests is due to passengers taking cell-phone photos of perpe-

trators, reported the New York Post.

Debjani Roy, interim executive director of HollaBack!, an international organization, that aims to fight street harassment, agreed, saying with the increase of technology and ways to report, more people have been coming forward, either anonymously or not.

HollaBack! has a phone application that allows users to share and report their experiences. The organization guards personal information and allows users to pin-drop a location of where the incident happened.

Based on data provided by HollaBack!, Times Square, SoHo and Wall Street have areas where harassment happens

most, which Roy said could be a density issue.

The stories and the reports show local legislators and community leaders what is happening in their district, Roy said.

Her organization is showing how prevalent these experiences are so more can be done to prevent them, Roy said.

"As a survivor, you want options, you don't want to deal with authoritative figures at that moment, it's intimidating, it's a really great opportunity to unanimously share your story," Roy said.

But women like Cruze and Carovillano who have chosen alternative ways to go home late at night said the price they pay to get home is worth it in order to stay safe.

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NTSB images from the aftermath of the fatal collision shows the burned-out shells of the vehicle and rail car. NTSB

# Images of fatal SUV, train crash released

The National Transportation Safety Board on Wednesday released photographs of February's fatal Metro-North crash that took six lives and left more than a dozen injured near Westchester.

The images show the charred interior of the train, which officials say was going at 58 mph at the time of the incident, and the wreckage of the SUV with which it collided.

The pictures were released as part of a report that contains more than 1,100 documents tied to the crash.

"About 650 passengers and two crew members were on the train at the time of the accident," NBC New York reported. "Witnesses said [SUV driver Ellen Brody] had been stopped in the crossing prior to the gates lowering. When the crossing arm lowered, it struck the

back of the SUV. Brody got out to look at the back of the SUV, then got back inside, drove forward and was hit by the train."

NBC also reports that Brody, 49, of Edgemont, was not on the phone at the time of the accident and had no drugs or alcohol in her system. Her husband reportedly told investigators she did not have much experience with railroad crossings.

Brody's family has filed a wrongful death suit, alleging that had federal lighting and signage measures been met, the accident could have been prevented.

Nationwide, the Federal Railroad Administration reported there are about 270 deaths each year at grade crossings like the one where the Metro-North accident took place, where roads cross rail tracks at ground level. METRO

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### Please donate to the Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2015 holiday season.

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh

anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It

is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us) and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's

secure payment system. Your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

METRO



New York City Police Officer Kenneth Boss leaves the Albany courthouse following juror deliberations over the Amadou Diallo trial in 2000. GETTY IMAGES

# Cop in Diallo shooting to be promoted to sergeant

Kenneth Boss is the only cop involved in Diallo's death still on the force.

NYPD told the Post that Boss "deserved" the promotion as he passed the sergeant's exam and had no "current investigations."

The fatal police shooting of the unarmed Amadou Diallo in 1999 involved four officers, and the only one left on the force is a soon-to-be sergeant.

The New York Post reported that NYPD Officer Kenneth Boss, 44, will be promoted, outraging Diallo's family.

Boss was one of four Street Crime Unit cops who opened fire on Diallo in February 1999, as he was reaching for his wallet.

They fired 41 shots at Diallo in the mistaken belief he was reaching for a gun. They hit the 22-year-old immigrant from Guinea 19 times, killing him in the vestibule of the building where he lived on Wheeler Avenue in the Bronx.

Diallo's death swiftly became a flash point for activists protesting police brutality, both locally here in New York and across the nation.

Now 16 years later, the shooting of Diallo remains a contentious, disturbing chapter in the NYPD's history.

Sources close to the

CBS New York reported that while Boss remained on the NYPD, the other three officers involved in Diallo's death all left the force: one retired and two became firefighters.

Boss gained national attention again years after he and the other officers were cleared of criminal charges when he fought, and lost, in court to get his service weapon returned.

Yet, in 2012, then-Commissioner Ray Kelly agreed to the request.

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association head Patrick J. Lynch said in a statement: "This police officer was exonerated in a criminal trial and in a thorough departmental review and there was no reason to deny him full restoration."

Diallo's mother was reportedly outraged by the promotion.

"I hold the police commissioner and Mayor de Blasio accountable," Kadiatou Diallo said to the Post on Tuesday. "There are so many deserving police officers out there they can promote, and they promote him? Him?" JOSH KRUGER

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# Hung jury in trial of cop in Freddie Gray case

Top New York lawyers question prosecutors' tactics and whether Officer William Porter should have been on trial at all.

After a Maryland judge declared a mistrial on Wednesday in the trial of Baltimore Police Officer William Porter, who was charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of detainee Freddie Gray, a pair of top New York defense attorneys questioned whether Porter should have been on trial at all.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Barry Williams issued the ruling after the jury of seven women and five men was unable to reach a verdict after about 16 hours of deliberations.

"The bottom line is, it's a lot easier for a grand jury to come up with an indictment than it is to convince a trial jury to



A protestor yells at members of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department in front of the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse East, after a mistrial was declared in the trial of William Porter on Wednesday in Baltimore, Maryland. GETTY IMAGES

convict beyond a reasonable doubt," said defense lawyer and Fox News legal expert Arthur Aidala. "It doesn't sound what the prosecutors argued was egregious enough to drive a jury to a guilty verdict."

Gray, 25, was arrested after fleeing from police. He was put in a transport van, shackled and handcuffed, but was not secured by a seatbelt despite department policy to do so. He died a week later.

Porter, who was a backup officer, testified that Gray told him he needed medical aid. Porter told the van's driver and a supervisor that Gray had asked for aid but none was summoned, according to testimony.

Porter was charged with involuntary manslaughter, second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office.

"The prosecution took a big, wide net and cast it

over everyone who came in contact with Freddie Gray," said prominent New York defense attorney Joe Tacopina. "There's no indication he [Porter] did anything wrong."

"He wasn't in any way directly responsible [for Gray's death]. By all accounts, he didn't do anything wrong."

Tacopina said he was surprised that prosecutors chose Porter as the first of six officers to be tried.

"Normally you start

*"If this was their leadoff hitter, you have to wonder what's behind him in the batting order."*

Tacopina

off with your best shot," Tacopina said. "If this was their leadoff hitter, you have to wonder what's behind him in the batting order."

Aidala went even further, saying Porter should not even have been charged.

He said Gray was young and healthy with no apparent injuries and Porter had notified his boss that Gray asked for medical attention.

"If we're going to put

cops behind bars in cases like this, the hospitals will be loaded up every time there's an arrest," he said. "This is basically a civil case — that the Gray family has already won. They settled for \$6 million. That's a lot of money."

Williams, the judge in the case, said an administrative judge would set a new trial date as early as Thursday.

Porter, who looked relieved after the ruling, said he would not appear at the scheduling hearing.

The panel said on Tuesday that it was deadlocked, but Williams told the jurors to keep trying to reach a verdict.

Gray's death triggered protests, rioting and arson in the majority black city of 620,000 people and intensified a U.S. debate on police treatment of minorities. In contrast to the demonstrations in the days after Gray's death, the trial has drawn only a handful of protesters.

WILLIAM J. GORTA WITH REUTERS



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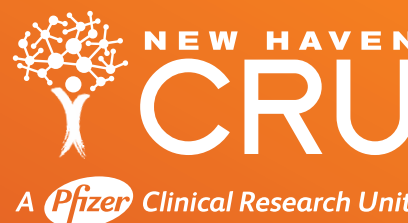


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## BRIEF

**Homeland Security chief says social media used in immigration vetting**

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Wednesday that his department has been consulting social media in reviews of immigration applications since early this year, hitting back at criticism that U.S. authorities are not doing enough to weed out potential security threats.

The Department of Homeland Security has been criticized over

reports it did not routinely consult social media during the vetting process for visa applications.

Questions arose after it came to light that one of the shooters in the Dec. 2 killings of 14 people in San Bernardino, California, Tashfeen Malik, entered the United States on a K-1 or "fiancée" visa. The Los Angeles Times has reported she had pledged her support to Islamic jihad in a private Facebook post.

Johnson said his department began consulting social media early this year before granting certain immigration benefits but did not specify which ones.

"We had policies in place regarding consulting social media which in my judgment, particularly in this current environment, were too restrictive," Johnson told reporters at the unveiling of a revamped terrorism alert system.

"Under my leadership as

secretary, we in fact began to consult social media in connection with conferring various immigration benefits and we will be doing more of this," he added. "Any reports or partial reports to the contrary are simply false."

He noted DHS consults intelligence community databases and law enforcement databases when it does vetting for "a lot" of immigration benefits but said social media is also useful. **REUTERS**

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Tashfeen Malik and Syed Farook are pictured passing through Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in July 27, 2014. **CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION HANDOUT**

## No evidence attackers were part of terrorist cell, says FBI head

There is no evidence a married couple who killed 14 people in California this month were part of a terrorist cell, the head of the FBI said, confirming that investigators believe the pair were inspired but not directed by Islamic State.

The Islamist militant group has "revolutionized" terrorism by seeking to inspire such small-scale attacks, FBI Director James Comey said, noting the group uses social media, encrypted communications and slickly produced propaganda to recruit followers around the world.

"Your parents' al Qaeda was a very different model than the threat we face today," Comey told a counterterrorism conference in New York.

However, he said that while the perpetrators of the Dec. 2 shootings in San Bernardino, California — Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 29 — had expressed support for "jihad and martyrdom" in private communications as early as 2013, they never did so publicly on social media.

He also said authorities believe Mohammed Abdulazeez, the suspect in July's fatal shooting of four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was radicalized by militant propaganda.

"To my mind, there's no doubt that the Chatta-

*"Twitter works as a way to sell books, as a way to promote movies and it works as a way to crowdfund terrorism — to sell murder."*

Comey

nooga killer was inspired and motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda," he said, but did not specify any particular group.

Comey said the Federal Bureau of Investigation currently has "hundreds" of investigations in all 50 U.S. states involving potential Islamic State-inspired plots.

Islamic State controls wide swaths of Iraq and Syria, where it seeks to carve out a caliphate. It claimed responsibility for attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 that killed 130 people.

The group has a three-pronged strategy, Comey said: recruit fighters to join it in the Middle East, inspire individuals in other countries to carry out attacks and send out trained operatives to commit violence in Europe and the U.S. **REUTERS**



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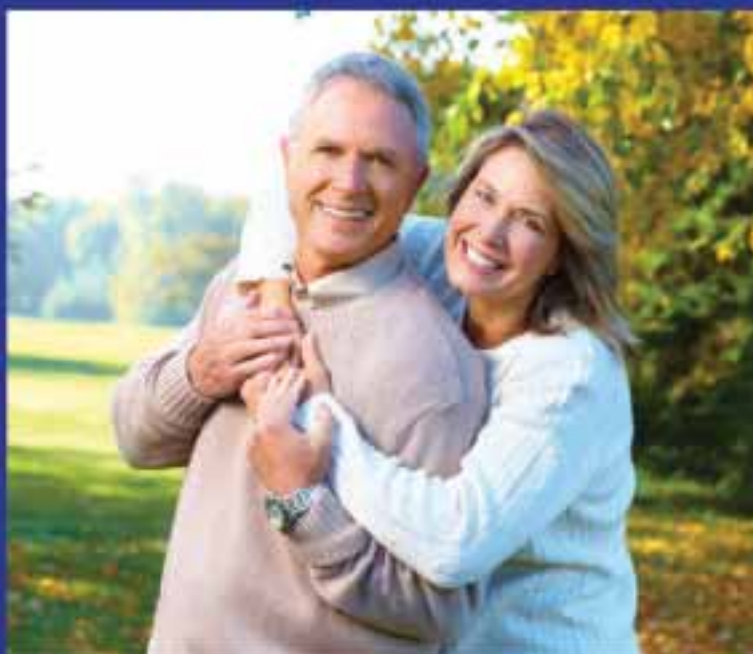
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# Obama administration authorizes \$1.83 billion arms sale to Taiwan

Past U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan have attracted strong condemnation in China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province.

The U.S. administration formally notified Congress on Wednesday of a \$1.83 billion arms sale package for Taiwan, including two frigates, anti-tank missiles, amphibious assault vehicles and other equipment, despite opposition from China.

The authorization came a year after Congress passed legislation approving the sale. It is the first such major arms sale to Taiwan in more than four years.

A spokesman for the White House's National



AAV-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicle GETTY IMAGES

Security Council said the authorization followed previous sales notifications by the administration totaling over \$12 billion under the Taiwan

Relations Act.

"Our longstanding policy on arms sales to Taiwan has been consistent across six different U.S. administrations,"

the spokesman, Myles Caggins, said, while adding: "We remain committed to our one-China policy."

Although Washing-

ton does not recognize Taiwan as a separate state from China, it is committed under the Taiwan Relations Act to ensuring Taipei can maintain a credible defense.

The new sales come at a period of heightened tensions between the United States and China over the South China Sea, where Washington has been critical of China's building of manmade islands to assert expansive territorial claims.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said this week that Beijing opposed U.S. arms sales to Taiwan as "an interference in China's internal affairs."

Hong said such sales "damaged the peaceful development of ties across the Taiwan Strait

and Sino-U.S. ties and said Beijing urged Washington "to earnestly recognize the high sensitivity and serious harm of weapons sales to Taiwan."

David McKeeby, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said the package was aimed at "supporting Taiwan's efforts to develop more innovative and asymmetric defensive capabilities."

He said it included two Perry-class guided-missile frigates; \$57 million of Javelin anti-tank missiles made by Raytheon and Lockheed Martin; \$268 million of TOW 2B anti-tank missiles and \$217 million of Stinger surface-to-air missiles made by Raytheon, and \$375 million of AAV-7 Amphibious Assault Vehicles. REUTERS

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## Fed raises rates citing ongoing US recovery

The Federal Reserve hiked interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade on Wednesday, signaling faith that the U.S. economy had largely overcome the wounds of the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

The U.S. central bank's policy-setting committee raised the range of its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to between 0.25 percent and 0.50 percent, ending a lengthy debate about whether the economy was strong enough to withstand higher borrowing costs.

"With the economy performing well and expected to continue to do so, the committee judges that a modest increase in the federal funds rate is appropriate," Fed Chair Janet Yellen said in a press conference after the rate decision was announced. "The economic recovery



Janet Yellen GETTY IMAGES

has clearly come a long way."

The Fed's policy statement noted the "considerable improvement" in the U.S. labor market, where the unemployment rate has fallen to 5 percent, and said policymakers are "reasonably confident" inflation will rise over the medium term to the Fed's 2 percent objective.

The central bank made clear the rate hike was a tentative beginning to a "gradual" tightening cycle, and that in deciding its next move it would put a premium on monitoring inflation, which remains mired below target. REUTERS



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# Teens smoked, drank, used drugs less in 2015: Study

A decades-long decline in teenage drinking and smoking continued in 2015 and use of some drugs by eighth-graders and high school students also fell, while marijuana consumption extended a five-year flat trend, according to results of a study released on Wednesday.

Teen cigarette smoking fell to its lowest level since the University of Michigan began doing its national survey on licit and illicit substances in 1975, according to a news release on the study, part of a series called Monitoring the Future.

Only 7 percent of students in grades eight, 10 and 12 who were polled reported smoking cigarettes in the previous month, down from 8 percent a year earlier and the lowest level in 41 years of

annual tracking.

"Such a reduction can translate eventually into preventing hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as well as many serious diseases," Lloyd Johnston, principal investigator of the study, said in a news release.

The study said increased taxes, advertising restrictions, smoking bans in many public places and quit-smoking campaigns are all paying off.

Forty percent of the students polled said they had used alcohol in the past year and 22 percent said they had done so in the previous 30 days — also the lowest levels since the study began in the mid-1970s. The one-year decline was not statistically significant, the report said, but the long-term decline is



The study, funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, one of the National Institutes of Health, surveyed 44,892 students in 382 secondary schools. GETTY IMAGES

*"After rising for several years, the annual prevalence of marijuana has more or less leveled out since about 2010."*

The report

highly significant.

Students also reported declining use of heroin, synthetic marijuana, amphetamines and MDMA, which is known as Ecstasy or Molly.

There was no change in consumption of marijuana, the most used illicit drug.

The survey said 12 percent of eighth-graders, 25 percent of 10th-graders and 35 percent of 12th-graders reported using marijuana at least once in the prior 12 months.

As far as more habitual use of marijuana, "one in every 16 or 17 high school seniors is smoking marijuana daily or near daily," the study said. "These rates have changed rather little since 2010 but are for three to six times higher than they were at their low point in 1991." REUTERS

## BRIEF

### Apple's stock dips as concerns mount about iPhone shipments

Shares of Apple dipped on Wednesday on growing expectations that the consumer technology company may sell fewer iPhones next year than previously thought.

In a note to clients, Bank of America cut its estimate for fiscal 2016 iPhone shipments by 10 million to 220 million, pointing to a weakening among Apple's suppliers.

In another note, Raymond James lowered its estimate for 2016 iPhone shipments to 224 million from 229 million, also pointing to lackluster expectations at Apple suppliers. And on Tuesday, Baird Equity Research trimmed its 2016 iPhone forecast to 234.7 million from 243.8 million, implying 1.5 percent growth over 2015.

Reflecting growing doubts about future iPhone sales, shares of Apple have fallen 4.4 percent over the past month.

In the latest hints of weakness among Apple suppliers, Imagination Technologies on Tuesday said softness in the overall semiconductor industry and smartphone market meant its operating profit would be lower than expected for the rest of its fiscal year. REUTERS



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# Facebook partners with Uber for ride-hailing service via Messenger

Facebook said it is testing a service that will allow users of its Messenger app to hail Uber rides directly from the app, without leaving a conversation or downloading the ride-hailing app.

Uber is the first partner for the Transportation on Messenger service, which will be available to select users in locations where Uber operates in the United States, Facebook said in a blog post.

Uber on Messenger will start rolling out in the United States on Wednesday, Uber said in a blog post.

Lyft, a rival ride-hailing service provider, will be added to Transportation on Messenger in January, sources close to Lyft told Reuters.

Users can hail a ride in the latest version of



An Uber driver holds the door open for a passenger. BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Messenger by choosing "transportation" from a menu or by tapping on a car icon within a chat.

"Facebook is looking at this as a way to make Messenger more attractive," Thilo Koslowski, vice president and automotive practice leader of Gartner said.

He said the service provides a "huge market place" for Uber.

Facebook has been aggressively working to boost the appeal of its messenger service,

including making it mandatory last year for users to install a separate app to send and receive messages.

Since then, Facebook has beefed up the app's features by allowing users to send and receive money through Messenger.

Still, the Internet giant is playing catch up with Chinese Internet company Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s messaging app WeChat, which has offered similar services much earlier.

REUTERS

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## Trouble in Gwen and Blake land

I'm sure it's just a total, complete coincidence that just after the latest season of "The Voice" ends we get our first report of trouble in the romance between co-coaches Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton. Not suspicious at all, this. So the duo, both recently divorced and involved in a "romance" that's been played up for the cameras during the last few weeks of episodes, are said to be hitting a rough patch after a backstage incident in which Shelton left his phone behind in the makeup room and Stefani witnessed a text message come in from his ex-wife, Miranda Lambert, according to In Touch. "Gwen saw it and lost it. She found Blake and asked to speak to him privately, but he said he couldn't right then and there.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

She had tears running down her face and went and locked herself in her dressing room," a source says. "Gwen has seen texts between Blake and Miranda. She's really a mess over this." Is she, though? Or is this all part of the predetermined plan? God, when did I become so cynical?

# the word

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## The Weeknd in hot water with Bella Hadid

When will people learn that parties are not the best places to misbehave? You know, because other people can see you? Singer The Weeknd apparently didn't realize this when he decided to face-time a pair of eager young fans at a private party celebrating the release of his new album — a party from which 19-year-old model girlfriend, as in she's a model and his girlfriend, not a "model girlfriend" — Bella Hadid was conspicuously absent. "He went to an after-party at a private house in L.A.," a source tells Life & Style, where he hit it off with a blonde and a brunette. "He was making out with both of them, going back and forth. Then they disappeared into a bedroom together." But it's totally cool, I'm sure he just wanted to explain to them in private how much he loves his girlfriend. Now, maybe I'm a little out of touch, but what's a Weeknd?

## DAILY VIDEO



YOUTUBE

### The Hypothetical "Star Wars" Christmas Special

The good people at Funny or Die try to revive the embarrassing tradition of "The Star Wars Holiday Special" for the release of "The Force Awakens."

— except they don't really know much about the film because spoilers. So instead they try to cobble together a celebration of Droid Day that pays pretty faithful tribute to the terrible, tacky original. And the tie-in commercials for merchandise at Target are pretty spot-on, too.

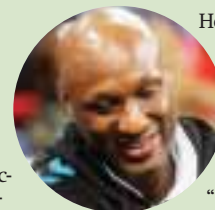
## Lupita Nyong'o's clueless 'Star Wars' audition

Hollywood can keep you busy, especially after you've won an Academy Award for your film debut. That might explain why Lupita Nyong'o didn't quite connect the dots when she had a meeting with J.J. Abrams a couple of years ago. "I didn't really know what I was auditioning for," said Nyong'o, who plays the alien Maz Kanata in "The Force Awakens," the latest "Star Wars" film. "I guess I thought I should find work, you know? I was so busy, I was working with adrenaline, so I went in and out. I barely remember that audition, and then two months later [Abrams] called me." So what did this mystery audition entail, exactly? "I remember crouching around and using my hands as a gun." Sounds ... fun?



## Lamar Odom is 'not doing great'

Not to bum you out too much so close to the holidays, but here's an update on convalescing, brothel-patronizing Lamar Odom. "He's not doing great," a source tells Entertainment Tonight. "His speech is still slurred and he can barely walk on his own yet. He forgets a lot of people's names — sometimes even his own."



He definitely has some memory loss." But those close to the former NBA star are still hoping for him to be "mentally fully recovered." Khloe Kardashian, for her part, posted a video recently expressing saying, "Lord knows I've had stress and anxiety lately. This year has been absolutely horrible, but it's almost done. I'm just praying that 2016 will be better."



@KChenoweth  
I'm tired.



@MarkDuplass  
Sometimes I look in the mirror and think to myself... f— yeah.



@TheEllenShow  
All I want for Christmas is a baby in a Santa hat. In a basket.



@DanaDelany  
I think I could have cured Alzheimers, in the amount of time I've spent doing crossword puzzles to prevent it.



@JuddApatow  
One thing is clear- most all of the great tweeters of 2013 are gone.



@MarkRuffalo  
Okay, I have to get to work.



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# Films streaming now that inspired 'Star Wars'



George Lucas borrowed from cinema and literature history to create the original run of his magnum opus. If you're jonesing for more "Star Wars" before you see "The Force Awakens," you can subsist on these. **MATT PRIGGE**

## "THE HIDDEN FORTRESS" (1957)



Like "Star Wars," Akira Kurosawa's "The Hidden Fortress" features a feisty princess and two of her lowly followers. **CRITERION COLLECTION**

At this point, Akira Kurosawa's samurai opus is better known as the film Lucas most extensively ripped off for the movie we'd rather not refer to as "A New Hope." It's not exactly the same story, but it does feature the following: a pair of bickering peasants, a surly hero, a feisty princess, a mysterious baddie (who might not be as bad as he lets on) and, of course, a not-so-impregnable fortress. It's also, for Kurosawa, a relatively light

affair. The director's samurai films are often as serious as they are dynamic — or, in the case of "Yojimbo," hilariously cynical. But "The Hidden Fortress" is pretty much a straight-up adventure, beautifully told and filmed, and only profound in its final moments. "I had fun," the princess rhapsodizes in retrospect, even as all seems doomed. "I got to see the good and bad in people."

**See on:** Hulu Plus

## "FLASH GORDON" SERIALS (1936-1940)



George Lucas swiped the opening text crawls of his "Star Wars" films from the old "Flash Gordon" serials. **PROVIDED**

Lucas drew a lot of his visuals — and the gee-whiz cliffhanger nature of the "Star Wars" plot — from the 1930s "Flash Gordon" serials, which starred swimmer-turned-actor Buster Crabbe as Alex Raymond's comic-strip hero: a polo player who finds himself amid adventures in space. The rising title cards that open each "Star Wars" entry were lifted straight

from them. You could say the same for Luke Skywalker himself, who, like Flash, is a blond everyguy plucked from his home to battle a scary supervillain. It only took three years after "Star Wars" for a "Flash Gordon" movie to join the throngs of ripoffs, although it was too delightfully weird to create its own franchise.

**See on:** YouTube, as they're in the public domain

## "2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" (1968)



"2001: A Space Odyssey" blew audiences' minds with stunning visions of space travel back in 1968. **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

Big-budget space movies were pretty thin on the ground in 1970s Hollywood, despite the rise of the space program — and especially considering one of the 1960s' biggest hits: Stanley Kubrick's hypnotic sci-fi/art film. You can see the

cash-strapped "Star Wars" production drawing on the pioneering work of "2001's" crafty f/x artist Douglas Trumbull, who found practical ways to create many of the film's still-stunning images. **See on:** Netflix Instant

## "CASABLANCA" (1942)



"Casablanca" features a melting-pot bar, just like the cantina from "Star Wars." **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

If that multicultural cantina scene looked familiar, that's because Lucas was inspired by Rick's Cafe in "Casablanca," a hive for the world's scum and villains — or at least everyone from Peter Lorre to Claude Rains to

Sidney Greenstreet to Humphrey Bogart himself. Better yet: Massive midfilm flashback aside, the bar stuff takes up pretty much the whole movie.

**See on:** For purchase on iTunes, Google Play and Vudu

## "METROPOLIS" (1927)



Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" also features a metal robot, this one on the dark side. **KINO**

In 1984, no less than synth-music lord Giorgio Moroder restored Fritz Lang's sci-fi saga, reworking it for modern audiences. Moroder lost the intertitles, cut it down to 87 minutes and lathered it in music by the likes of Pat Benatar,

Freddy Mercury, Adam Ant and Loverboy. This new "Metropolis" also introduced evil metal robot Maria back into the pop culture landscape — suspiciously looking a lot like Lucas' more benign C-3PO. **See on:** Netflix Instant

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# Maya Rudolph doesn't do FOMO



Maya Rudolph (with co-star John Leguizamo) does not like what she sees in "Sisters." K.C. BAILEY/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The "Sisters" star on how staying off social media leads to a happier life.



NED EHRBAR  
@Nedrick  
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

When "SNL" vet Maya Rudolph isn't busy being hilarious — like in the new comedy "Sisters" alongside Tina Fey and Amy Poehler — she's busy raising her four young children with her husband, filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson. So it's understandable why she doesn't have much time for social media. But even she did, she'd avoid it all the same.



GETTY IMAGES

What's that smell?

The party in this movie looked crazy, but it could not have smelled very nice. The only thing that was kind of gnarly was outside. It had a horrible smell from all the water in the sinkhole. It was a bummer. It kind of smelled like the

inside of an old, wet cast. But inside the set it smelled wonderful. It wasn't like when you go to a bar at 10 a.m. and you smell last night and you're like, "I'm going to be sick. How did anybody spend time in here last night?"

**Your character, Brinda, has a major chip on her shoulder from high school. How was it playing that kind of long-held resentment?**

It is fun. I think the insecurity of Brinda's character really is our own collective insecurity. Everybody wants to be invited to the party. That's sort of the worst possible feeling in terms of high school days. You don't want to be the person that's left off the list. I feel like with Brinda it's almost as if she was just waiting for Kate (played by Fey) to come back to her hometown so she could be like, "See? I've really got my life together." She's probably played it out in her head enough that she's practiced her head whip

away. It's very dramatic, as an exit. She's thought about it a long time.

**It's interesting how that FOMO turned her into a mean girl.**

She has major FOMO. I just learned about FOMO. But everyone's got FOMO. Well, not everyone. Some people don't. Some people are actually content.

**Twitter and Facebook have made it more pronounced.**

Yes. I don't dabble in those things. Maybe I was just born so early in the '70s that it's just so hard for me to relate to the idea of sharing everything. I feel like if I was constantly doing that and not doing the other things I need to do, I would hate myself a little bit. I don't have enough time to do the things I'm supposed to be doing, so it would just

feel like pure procrastination.

**Has anyone ever pressured you to do it for work?**

Yes. When I did my variety show, I was given a Twitter account. "You've got to announce it." "OK, I'll do it." And so I announced it, like, "Hey! My show's coming on. You should watch it." And the response was so crazy. I obviously had not set up my settings correctly, but people started responding and my phone would not stop. And I couldn't turn it off. It felt weird.

**That sounds terrifying.**

It was. And I'm not used to it. I'm not good at it. I'm good at other things.

**Such as?**

Roller skating. But not ice skating. And I do not know how to Roller-blade, either.

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# Foals: Behind the bedlam

Percussionist Jack Bevan tells us about the band's humble beginnings, new album and rocking out really, really hard.



EMILY LAURENCE  
@EmLaurence  
emily.laurence@metro.us

British rock band Foals has a rep for getting rowdy. This is, after all, a band that once got into a fistfight with the Sex Pistols' John Lydon. The band is known for bringing an intense energy to the stage, and even after a decade they haven't slowed down. We talk to percussionist — and one time Burberry model — Jack Bevan, 30, about the band's latest album, "What Went Down," and turning anger into art.

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massive festivals such as Glastonbury and Coachella, but Bevan still remembers their very first gig, in Oxford, when they played to 20 people: "It was the hottest summer we had in the U.K. for years, and it was in this [pub] with no air conditioning. It was absolutely boiling. "But it was great. Our music was quite dance-y in the early stages and the crowd was just dancing and moshing," he says. "We had never played live before and we were just so excited."



NEIL KRUG

## Manic music

The days of playing to audiences of just 20 people are long over, and the band is touring the States promoting their album "What Went Down." The quintet

recorded it in the south of France, in the same seaside town where Vincent Van Gogh was once committed to an asylum.

And while the album certainly has a manic feel to it, Bevan says the

Van Gogh connection is a coincidence. "We didn't choose the city because of that, but we were definitely aware of it," he says. "It's like a haunted house. They're always more exciting when you know some-

thing actually happened in the house."

## Anger management

As with Foals' past albums, "What Went Down" is bluntly aggressive and loud. "It's so raw and intense to play," Bevan says. "By the time we're finished, it feels like just getting a massage or something. It's very therapeutic."

Because their music falls on the serious side, Bevan says at times he worries that people forget there's another side to the band that's a lot more laid-back. "It's quite hard when you're making something that you feel deeply serious and earnest about, which we are very much doing, but that doesn't mean we're not real people and have a sense of humor," he says. "We're just not really a band to make funny music videos."



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# What New York's hottest tastemakers are gifting this holiday

Want to give something personal, useful and chic? We asked five of the city's savvy style, beauty and taste gurus to share their shopping lists. **RAQUEL LANERI**

JUNG LEE



Jung Lee is an event designer and owner of Jung Lee NY (25 W. 29th St.), a boutique that specializes in entertaining and decorating essentials from around the world. "Think about what will delight and bring joy to the recipient," she suggests. "I especially love personalized gifts."

"A leather apron. It's superchic and unisex. Customize it with a monogram or saying." (LEATHER APRON, \$225, JUNGLEENY.COM)

"A Skultuna tray — ideally in all sizes — is so beautiful yet practical for serving food and beverage or just to have in your home." (SKULTUNA KARUI TRAYS, \$125-\$260, JUNGLEENY.COM)

"I love the whimsy mixed in with functionality in this cobra votive." (ARDEN CLASSIC CANDLE HOLDER WITH SILVER-PLATED COBRA, \$275, JUNGLEENY.COM)



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Designer Rebecca Minkoff made her name with the perpetually sold-out Morning After bag. Her cool-girl clothes, accessories and wearables epitomize downtown style.

"One of my favorites gifts to give this year are Normal earphones. Each set is customized and designed to fit specifically to your ears. They're the most chic and comfortable ones on the market!" (EARPHONES, \$199, NRML.COM)

"I'm obsessed with Apotheke candles! They're handmade in Brooklyn and have so many different scents. I love lighting the pine candle during the winter. It's the perfect gift for the holiday party hostess." (PINE CANDLE, \$30, APOTHEKECO.COM)

"I always switch up my iPhone cases, so I love gifting them. Case-mate makes such great cases — they're the perfect stocking stuffer for anyone on your list!" (PHONE CASE, PRICES VARY, CASE-MATE.COM)



REBECCA MINKOFF



CHRIS SALGARDO



TRAVIS SHINN

Chris Salgado's new book is "Manmade: The Essential Skincare & Grooming Reference for Every Man." "I like my gifts to be memorable and meaningful beyond the holiday," the president of Kiehl's USA says. "So I'll give something with a charitable component or an experience that will create a lasting memory."

"Being able to symbolically 'adopt' an African elephant or another endangered creature is a great gift for every animal-lover, but more importantly, it's a gift of preservation for future generations." (AFRICAN ELEPHANT ADOPTION KIT, \$25-\$100, GIFTS.WORLDWILDLIFE.ORG)

"I'm dying to see the musical 'Hamilton's' combination of history and hip-hop, and hope to take my closest friends, even if we have to wait months for available tickets." ("HAMILTON" TICKETS, PRICES VARY, HAMILTONBROADWAY.COM)

"I mostly visit them, but I'd like to bring my parents in Florida up for a relaxing vacation at my home in upstate New York." (PLANE TICKET, PRICES VARY)



JESSICA RICHARDS



SQUIX NESI

Jessica Richards is a stylist and founder of Goop-approved Shen Beauty in Brooklyn (315 Court St.). When it comes to gifting, "stay true to what you enjoy," she recommends. "A good rule of thumb is to buy gifts for other people that you would love if you received or that you may even buy for yourself."

"One of my all-time favorite gifts to give is the Le Feu Bleu Phthalto Candle. The scent is custom-blended, the color is hand-mixed, and it's sculpted underwater, which is cool. Plus it looks gorgeous in pretty much any room." (LE FEU BLEU PHTHALTO CANDLE, \$62, SHEN-BEAUTY.COM)

"I am giving my mom the Ellis Brooklyn Body Milk in Pseudonym. We both love the exact same fragrances and somehow always buy the same ones. Back to my philosophy: Buy what you love." (PSEUDONYM BODY MILK, \$55, SHEN-BEAUTY.COM)

"My go-tos for anyone I'm a bit stuck on as far as a gift goes are the Himalayan Detox Bath Salts by Therapie Roques O'Neil. Man or woman, these salts are no joke. Everyone who uses them becomes utterly obsessed!" (HIMALAYAN DETOX BATH SALTS, \$66, SHEN-BEAUTY.COM)



DEBORAH LLOYD

Deborah Lloyd is president and creative director of Kate Spade New York, which has a new, unsurprisingly adorable book, "Kate Spade New York: All in Good Taste." "I like to honor individuality and give gifts with a personal touch," she says.

"This holiday I'm loving Rae Feather. I've bought a men's English — I'm British so there is sentimentality in that — cashmere scarf, but I love monogramming it too." (MONOGRAM LUXE CASHMERE CONTRAST BORDER SCARF, \$450, RAEFEATHER.COM)

"I also love buying a bottle of wine that has a name — like Chloe. It even has a black bow." (CHLOE WINE COLLECTION PROSECCO, \$17, CHLOEWINECOLLECTION.COM)

"Everyone needs a chic, personalized spot to put their things — or as I like to call them, curiosities. These monogrammed acrylic trays are perfect." (MARK AND GRAHAM MONOGRAMMED ACRYLIC TRAYS, \$55-\$65, MARKANDGRAHAM.COM)



# Gifts every kid will love

The founders of popular children's brand Appaman tell us what's making it under their tree this year. **TINA CHADHA**

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**JANUARY 14-17**

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Designer Harald Husum and his wife and business partner, Lynn, know their way around cool kids' products. After all, the duo's trendy, line of kids' clothing — inspired by the streets of Brooklyn, where they live — can be spotted on celebrity tots (remember that show-stopping faux fur coat North West wore all last season?) and hip locals alike. We hit them up to find out what kids gifts they're loving — and wrapping — this holiday.

### Harald



"I'm all about buying my girls cool high tops. Copper Skytops by Supra are incredible."  
(COPPER SKYTOPS, \$70, SUPRAFOOTWEAR.COM)



"My youngest daughter has gotten really into learning to skateboard. This board is fun and easy to maneuver, and the color fade is great design — simple yet cool."  
(PENNY SKATEBOARDS SODA 22", \$119, PENNYSKATEBOARDS.COM)

**RIGHT TOPLAY**

"I'm a big fan of [donating to the global organization empowering children] Right to Play. They have an amazing message, and its grassroots approach is



**HARALD & LYNN**

touching the lives of kids in horrible situations." (RIGHTTOPLAY.COM)

### Lynn



"The camera has become an obsession of our eldest daughter. I think an Instax would be a fun way to start her photography hobby. The instant gratification never fails to entertain."  
(FUJI FILM INSTAX MINI 8, \$74.99, BESTBUY.COM)



"My youngest daughter started doing 'Girls on the Run' this year. She is really into fitness right now and has been begging for a Fitbit. This Fitbit Zip is a great device for her age group."  
(FITBIT ZIP, \$59.95, FITBIT.COM)



"The Appaman Combo Mod Dress is the perfect Holiday dress. It has tasteful bling, if that's a thing. It is also composed of French terry, so it is comfortable and easy to wear."  
(COMBO MOD DRESS, \$55, APPAMAN.COM)



"Our home has officially become a nail salon. When I was introduced to the Ella + Mila nail polish, I was hooked. The packaging is adorable, the colors are fun, and it is an amazing nontoxic choice for kids and adults."  
(ELLA + MILA BONBON GIFT SET, \$70, ELLAMILA.COM)



*I'm nuts for these new games.*

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[nylotterysweeps.com](http://nylotterysweeps.com)



# Gifts that give back

Feel extra good about what you put under the tree with these presents that generate money to help those in need.



EMILY LAURENCE  
@EmLaurence  
emily.laurence@metro.us

Even if you've been a little naughty this year, a sure way to end up on Santa's nice list is to give a gift that does double duty by helping someone in need. Whether you're hunting for the perfect pres-

ent for your best friend, mom, boss or nephew, everything on this list not only makes an awesome gift anyway, but a portion of the proceeds goes to help someone around the world. 'Tis the season.



## TOMS Saddle Brown Travel Journal

Part of TOMS's "one for one" philosophy, for every soft leather journal sold, a child in a developing nation will get a new pair of shoes. That alone is sure to spark some inspiring journaling. \$30, TOMS.COM



## Cheers to that! Brut Sparking Wine

Happily volunteer to bring the wine or champy to the next dinner party knowing that with One Hope Wine, your money will go to one of its various charities, such as supporting the troops or funding cancer research. Every bottle of this sparkling wine sold provides 15 meals to a child in need. \$59, ONEHOPEWINE.COM



## Brass and Cotton Bracelet

Handmade by Cambodian artisans, The Brave Collection provides above-average wages, health benefits and money for worker's kid's education. This bracelet has the Khmer word for "brave." \$38, THEBRAVECOLLECTION.COM



## Rebel Lock

A high-quality jewelry line that uses a theme of keys and locks, The Giving Keys is employed by Los Angeles residents who are transitioning out of homelessness. The employees' stories are also shared on the retailer's website as a way to spread hope to others. \$109, THEGIVINGKEYS.COM



## Minnow Complete Cruiser Skateboard,

Not only will this be one of the coolest boards at the skate park, but it's built to last, made from high-quality recycled goods and durable fishnets from Chile. It's better for the environment than skateboards with plastic parts, and it gives local inhabitants in Chile good, dependable jobs. \$149, SHORBUREAU.CO

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WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

things  
to do

# Sweet on the season

You don't need a snowdrift  
to enjoy this wintry treat. EVA KIS

## The Chocolate Room

269 Court St., Cobble Hill

Hot chocolate is just the beginning of an ultimate dessert at the Chocolate Room. The velvety abyss that is their dark chocolate can be enhanced with a shot from the bar, or a scoop of ice cream (Belgian chocolate, perhaps?) for some decadent chocolate-ception. Get one to share in their cozy lounge to amp up the aphrodisiac effect.

## Hecho en Dumbo

354 Bowery, Astor Place

Chef Danny Mena is celebrating Christmas all December with a menu of traditional Mexican holiday favorites. His version of Mexican hot chocolate is thickened with masa into a smooth concoction called champurrado, with vanilla and chocolate from Zacatecas state. Bonus: Get it spiked with Mount Gay rum, or order the dessert empanadas and get a complimentary cup.

## City Bakery

3 W. 18th St., Flatiron

Their signature hot chocolate is worth the wait — because there are still lines to get into this old-school-style NYC favorite. Skip the sugar shock of ordering one of their (also excellent) chocolate chip cookies to go with your hot chocolate, which is more like a melted chocolate bar than an actual beverage, and go for their own pastry hybrid, the sesame-studded pretzel croissant.

## Voila Chocolat

221 W. 79th St., UWS

More a wing of Charlie's Chocolate Factory than a patisserie, Voila doesn't shy away from experimenting with flavors. Even their house blend of hot chocolate is called "daredevil" for its spicy kick of ginger, anise and chili in the 72 percent Guittard chocolate. Since hot chocolate is their year-round speciality, it also comes in seasonal flavors like pumpkin spice and peppermint.

## Max Brenner

841 Broadway, Union Square

Hot cocoa isn't a seasonal treat at Max Brenner, the Italian chocolate emporium that serves it every way from pizzas to truffles and, of course, a whole menu of sippable treats. Go for the thick, no-milk-here Italian-style hot chocolate, served in its own specially designed Hug Mug for ultimate coziness. Until Jan. 3, find Max Brenner at their pop-up in Bryant Park's Winter Village.

## The Cannibal Beer & Butcher

Gotham West Market  
600 11th Ave., Hell's Kitchen

Once this winter actually decides to arrive, you'll want Bill Brooks' bracing hot chocolate concoction to warm your hands — and more. The Whipple-Scrumptet's hot chocolate base is fortified with boozy Christmas cheer by way of bourbon and stout, then topped off with whipped cream and toasted hazelnuts.

Hecho en Dumbo's champurrado ETHAN SMITH

## On your radar

# Buddakan vet takes Chinese food in a new direction at Jue Lan Club

The former church at the corner of Sixth Avenue and West 20th Street is probably best remembered as The Limelight, Peter Gattien's notorious party spot of the late '80s and early '90s.

Since then, like much of New York City, the building has taken a turn for cleaner living — you can work out in the sunshine streaming through a massive stained glass window at David Barton Gym, and beginning today, you can eat at one of the first-ever Chinese raw bars at Jue Lan Club.

The massive 275-seat restaurant is spread over several dining rooms, a garden and an event space named for Gattien, and boasts former Buddakan sous chef Oscar Toro in the kitchen. But Toro's former home won't be much help in predicting your experience at Jue Lan; he's going with a "lighter, cleaner" take on Chinese cuisine.

"I wanted to do my own variation of raw dishes using Chinese ingredients," he says. "I would take what you would use in a Japanese

or even Italian crudo dish and swap out a celery for a Chinese celery, mustard for a Chinese mustard, oranges for blood oranges." Raw options will range from tuna over avocado puree and red pepper jam to Wagyu beef served with Asian pear and smoked oyster crema.

There will be some "staple dishes," as Toro calls them, like hot and numbing crispy beef and his "Chinese sloppy Joe" made with braised oxtail and Taiwanese barbecue sauce stuffed in bao buns

is already a hit at his dinner parties. But even there you'll meet touches of China with sides like sprouted black beans and garnishes of native herbs. Next summer, expect to have your oysters with Chinese mignonettes from the expanded raw bar in the massive outdoor patio garden.

In what may be another first, Jue Lan Club has already been franchised overseas before it even opens, so check it out before the tourists arrive. Opens today, 49 W. 20th St., [Juelanclub.com](http://Juelanclub.com)



Jue Lan Club Sea Bass PAUL WAGTOUNTZ



## Listings

### HOLIDAYS

#### No Office Holiday Party

Dec. 17, 8 p.m.  
Littlefield, 622 DeGraw St.  
\$5-\$8, [Littlefieldnyc.com](http://Littlefieldnyc.com)  
Everyone deserves an office holiday party — at least, that's the idea behind the No Office Holiday Party, which brings together freelancers, contract workers and part-timers who don't get to have an official end-of-year fete to blow off steam with colleagues. Now in its fifth year, the No Office Holiday Party (a product of The Skint and Brooklyn) is part celebration, part networking event.

#### "Santastical"

Dec. 17-24  
CSV Cultural and Educational Center, 107 Suffolk St.  
\$20-\$40, [Santastical.com](http://Santastical.com)  
This is going to be your most bizarre holiday party this year, no matter how drunk your boss gets at the company's open bar. Psycho Clan, the artistic team behind Nightmare Haunted House, are putting on "a crazy Midwestern Christmas lawn come to life," with karaoke, a pretend ice-skating rink and a mistletoe for-

est. The fun culminates on the lap of one of six twisted Santas (like Bernie Santas or Hanukklus) for a souvenir photo.

#### "It's Christmas Time in the City"

Dec. 18-19,  
Carnegie Hall, 154 W. 57th St.  
\$40-\$122, [Carnegiehall.org](http://Carnegiehall.org)  
There are sleighfuls of Christmas concerts coming to the city this week, but the New York Pops offers a special kind of joyous playfulness that few orchestras can match. Their holiday concert features everyone's favorite seasonal tunes sung by Tony Award nominees Stephanie J. Block ("Wicked") and Brian D'Arcy James ("Something Rotten").

#### "An Evening of True Holiday Tales"

Dec. 20, 7-9 p.m.  
KGB Bar, 85 E. Fourth St.  
Free, [KGBbar.com](http://KGBbar.com)  
A surprising number of holiday stories didn't emerge from the imagination — they're based on historical events, as with the true tale of the grave robbers of St. Nicholas. On Sunday, historical nonfiction writers Alex Palmer, Bess Lovejoy and Alison Kinney



GETTY IMAGES

#### "Oh, Hello"

Through Dec. 20  
Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce St.  
\$49, [Ohhellshow.com](http://Ohhellshow.com)  
You might have seen Nick Kroll and John Mulaney present their crotchety characters Gil Faizon and George St. Geegland on "The Kroll Show," and now you can see them live in a full-length show called "Oh, Hello." The wacky Upper West Side retirees will discuss their views on everything from local politics to (of course) the failures of this good-for-nothing generation — including hilarious anecdotes about their own fictional, messed-up families.

come together at KGB Bar to discuss some of these outlandish holiday hijinks over themed cocktails.

#### The Meeting Holiday Spectacular

Dec. 20 & 21, 9:30 & 7 p.m.

Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette  
\$20, [Joespub.com](http://Joespub.com)  
Comedian Justin Sayre brings his scathing brand of on-point commentary about culture, politics, and modern gay exploits back to Joe's Pub this week with the newest chapter of "The Meeting: The Monthly Gathering

of the International Order of the Sodomites." December is a special edition, with the seventh annual Holiday Spectacular.

#### Make Music Winter

Dec. 21  
Various locations  
Free, [Makemusicnyc.org](http://Makemusicnyc.org)  
Make Music Winter, now in its 10th year, spreads holiday cheer with live music on the streets of NYC on winter's longest and darkest night of the year: Winter Solstice. The volunteer musicians may be singing, ringing bells, drumming, dancing, riding a bike with a horn or playing a track on their phones. Together, everyone creates the city's largest free concert at up to 1,000 sites.

### TV

#### "Gilmore Girls" Party

Dec. 18, 9:30 p.m.  
Videology Bar & Cinema  
308 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn  
\$5, [Videologybarandcinema.com](http://Videologybarandcinema.com)  
Williamsburg's movie theater-video rental-bar is throwing a "Gilmore Girls" party to celebrate the show's legacy and share the excitement of its revival. Revisit some of the very best episodes from its seven-year run while sipping spiked coffee (thanks, Luke!), playing board games and

testing your knowledge with themed trivia.

### BURLESQUE

#### X-Files Burlesque

Dec. 19, midnight  
Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette  
\$15, [Joespub.com](http://Joespub.com)  
Like a fever dream you'd have after an alien abduction — or a night of tequila shots — "The Truth Is Out There: X-Files Burlesque" offers a sexy tribute to television's cult sci-fi show. It's a naughty night to tide you over until "The X-Files" reboot miniseries kicks off in 2016.

### FOOD

#### Dinner Lab

Dec. 18, 7:05 & 8:45 p.m.  
Location TBA  
\$175, [Dinnerlab.com](http://Dinnerlab.com)  
Add one last foodie adventure to 2015 with the year's final Dinner Lab experience this Friday. Choose from one of two seating times and join other open-minded eaters for a one-night-only dining experience at a pop-up venue. This Dinner Lab's theme is "Straight Off the Dayboat: Aquatic Cuisine of the Eastern Seaboard," featuring a surprise menu by chef Jameson Poll and Bombay Sapphire cocktails.  
T. MICHELLE MURPHY



# NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Alan Gilbert Music Director



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December 18 | 8:00 PM  
December 19 | 2:00 PM

Courtney Lewis conductor  
Eric Owens bass-baritone  
New York City Gay Men's Chorus

Deck the halls with music and laughter in this heartwarming concert of holiday favorites, featuring the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, Dr. Seuss's "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" with Eric Owens, "Sleigh Ride," selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and more.



## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

PRESENTED BY GARY W. PARR

December 15-17 | 7:30 PM  
December 18 | 11:00 AM  
December 19 | 7:30 PM

Jane Glover conductor  
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Tim Mead countertenor  
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George Washington stayed here



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## Dream vacation: Barbados

With its white-sand beaches, swaying palm trees and laid-back vibe, Barbados could be any other Caribbean island, but its beguiling British charm sets it apart.

A favorite with cruise lines thanks to its location just 62 miles east of St. Vincent and the Windward Islands, Barbados is perfectly located for destination-rich voyages around some of the region's best-loved islands.

Cruise lines mostly visit in winter, when temperatures average 80. Companies, including Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line, call for a day of sightseeing, while upscale Seabourn, SeaDream, Star Clippers and Windstar use it as an embark or debark port — ideal for anyone who wants a few days in some of the most luxurious hotels in the West Indies at the start or end of their cruise.

The port is about a 20-minute walk

from Bridgetown, the capital, from where you can pick up catamaran cruises and visit the house, now a museum, where George Washington lived for two months in 1751. It was the only time he ever left America.

A statue of Lord Nelson presides over National Heroes Square, or Trafalgar Square, as it was called before independence from Britain 50 years ago. Expect festivals, sports competitions and parades to celebrate the anniversary on Nov. 30, 2016.

Although Barbados is small, just

21 miles long and 14 miles wide, there's plenty to occupy a day or two ashore, from lazing on the beach to going underground at Harrison's Cave, a wonderland of stalactites and stalagmites, streams and waterfalls. There are tours and tastings at the Mount Gay Rum distillery, a botanical feast at the 52-acre Flower Forest and round-island Jeep tours that visit the wild east coast, where surfers pit their skills against powerful Atlantic waves. At the Animal Flower Cave, steps lead into a cavern that's home to sea anemones, crabs and interesting rock formations.

INSIGHT GUIDES | JANE ARCHER

### Where to stay

**Port Ferdinand:** This new resort and residential complex is already a sought-after address in Barbados. Luxurious two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments are set around a marina and are perfect for families or couples. If you can't bear to leave, prices start at \$2.15 million.

**Sandals Barbados:** An upmarket all-inclusive for couples only on the

south coast, Sandals has beachfront suites with butlers, 11 restaurants and the longest lagoon pool on the island.

**The House:** This adults-only boutique property on the island's west coast has 34 sumptuous suites and serves champagne breakfasts, offers free water sports and includes one complimentary massage per guest in the price.

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Patriots running back Brandon Bolden should get the brunt of the carries this weekend for the Patriots. GETTY IMAGES

# PICKING FROM THE RUNNING BACK SCRAP HEAP

At this point, everyone knows that the bust rates of running backs are higher than other positions due to injuries, committees and rule changes. But this year has been one for the record books.

Le'Veon Bell, Eddie Lacy, Jamaal Charles, Marshawn Lynch, Matt Forte, DeMarco Murray, C.J. Anderson and Jeremy Hill all went in the first two rounds of your draft. And they've all either gotten hurt or have grossly underperformed. Only Adrian Peterson and LeSean McCoy have emerged from this top-two-round mess intact.

All this carnage is coming to a head in the fantasy playoffs, with

## ADAM LEVITAN

### FANTASY SPORTS

Adam Levitan is a Fantasy Sports columnist for Metro US. He is also a DraftKings analyst and co-host of The Daily Fantasy Football Edge podcast. @AdamLevitan



third- and fourth-string running backs suddenly looking like keys to rosters. What to expect:

### Bold on Bolden

Sunday's game against the Titans is the proverbial "big back" game for the Patriots as they're in Foxboro and are favored by 14 points. Now stepping into the great footsteps of Corey Dillon, Stevan Ridley, BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Laurence Maroney and LeGarrette Blount is Brandon Bolden. A favorite of the coaching staff thanks to his rugged versatility (special teams, pass protection, inside running), Bolden is a great bet for at least 15 carries Sunday.

Don't be afraid to scoop and start him in your playoffs.

### Regressing off a high

Tim Hightower's 28 carries against the Bucs last week were six more than Mark Ingram ever received in a game. It showed this staff has a lot of faith in Hightower, but it also had a lot to do with a really unusual game flow. The Saints defense actually stood tall, leading to more than 37 minutes in time of possession and a whopping 78 offensive plays. Hightower is a reasonable play against the Lions this week, but expect something closer to 15 carries.

### Mr. Robinson's neighborhood

Former Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson continues to improve as a running back. He averaged 3.3 YPC as a rookie, 4.3 last year and is up at 4.6 this year. Now comes a big chance with T.J. Yeldon (knee) in doubt for Sunday's home game against the Falcons. An explosive runner who projects for two to four catches as well, Robinson is a must-add and must-start assuming Yeldon is inactive. Note that "Shoelace" has gotten at least 15 touches six times in his career, averaging 16.6 carries for 81.5 yards with 0.83 TDs in those.

### NFL matchups

Fire up these borderline wideouts in Week 15:

**Golden Tate at NO** – Look for Delvin Breaux to stick with Calvin Johnson, leaving Tate to do work on the inside.

**John Brown at PHL** – There will be opportunities for big plays against an Eagles secondary that is prone to breakdowns.

**Allen Hurns vs. ATL** – With T.J. Yeldon hurting and a pass-happy scheme, the underrated Hurns will eat once again.



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Calvin Pryor is one of the players featured on the custom-made shirts. GETTY IMAGES

## Jets fans create custom Jets player T-shirts

The force is strong with Jets safety Calvin Pryor.



KRISTIAN DYER  
@KristianRDyer  
sports@metro.us

A year ago, New York Jets fans were likening Calvin Pryor to being a bust, this after the rookie safety struggled for spells in 2014. But this year, Pryor has not only earned the fan base's praise, he's apparently out of this



"EmPryor Strikes Back" T-shirt to play off the safety's name.

"The Empire Strikes Back" was Episode V of the "Star Wars" movie franchise.

Over the past three games, Pryor has 15 tackles and three passes defended. With 57 tackles this year, Pryor is set to pass last year's 57 tackles with three games left in the season.

The NYJetsFans.com T-shirts are becoming the stuff of legends. Their "Air-Marshall" T-shirt has been worn by superfan "Fireman Ed" and a "Fitzmagic" T-shirt featuring the Jets quarterback's famous beard was on Eric Decker when he boarded the team bus for the flight to London. The team's official Twitter account posted a photo of Decker getting on the bus prior to heading to the airport.

world.

And worthy of being memorialized in fashion.

On Wednesday, while addressing the media outside of his locker, Pryor wore a T-shirt designed by NYJetsFans.com, the group that led the anti-John Idzik protests a year ago. Just in time for the upcoming "Star Wars" movie, the group designed an







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 Secy. of State of New York  
 (SSNY) on 09/09/2015. Office  
 location: Queens County.  
 SSNY is designated as agent  
 of LLC upon whom process  
 against it may be served.  
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 Law at 2805 Avenue U, Brooklyn,  
 NY 11229, for on-premises  
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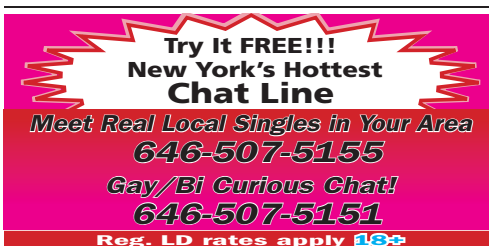
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- His hitting streak of 56 consecutive games is an MLB record
- The first MLB player to have his uniform number retired
- He's also known by the moniker 'Charlie Hustle'
- This player's MLB batting average is .366 -- still a record
- His statue outside Busch Stadium displays his signature batting stance
- One of the greatest catchers of all time, he passed away Sept. 2015
- He threw a record seven no-hitters during his major league career
- He managed the Baltimore Orioles for 17 years
- Yankees infielder nicknamed 'A-Rod'
- The Dodgers famously started him at first base on April 15, 1947
- He was known for wearing the number 14 jersey during his long tenure with the Braves
- The most MLB career home runs is held by this former Giants hitter
- His entire career was spent with the Boston Red Sox

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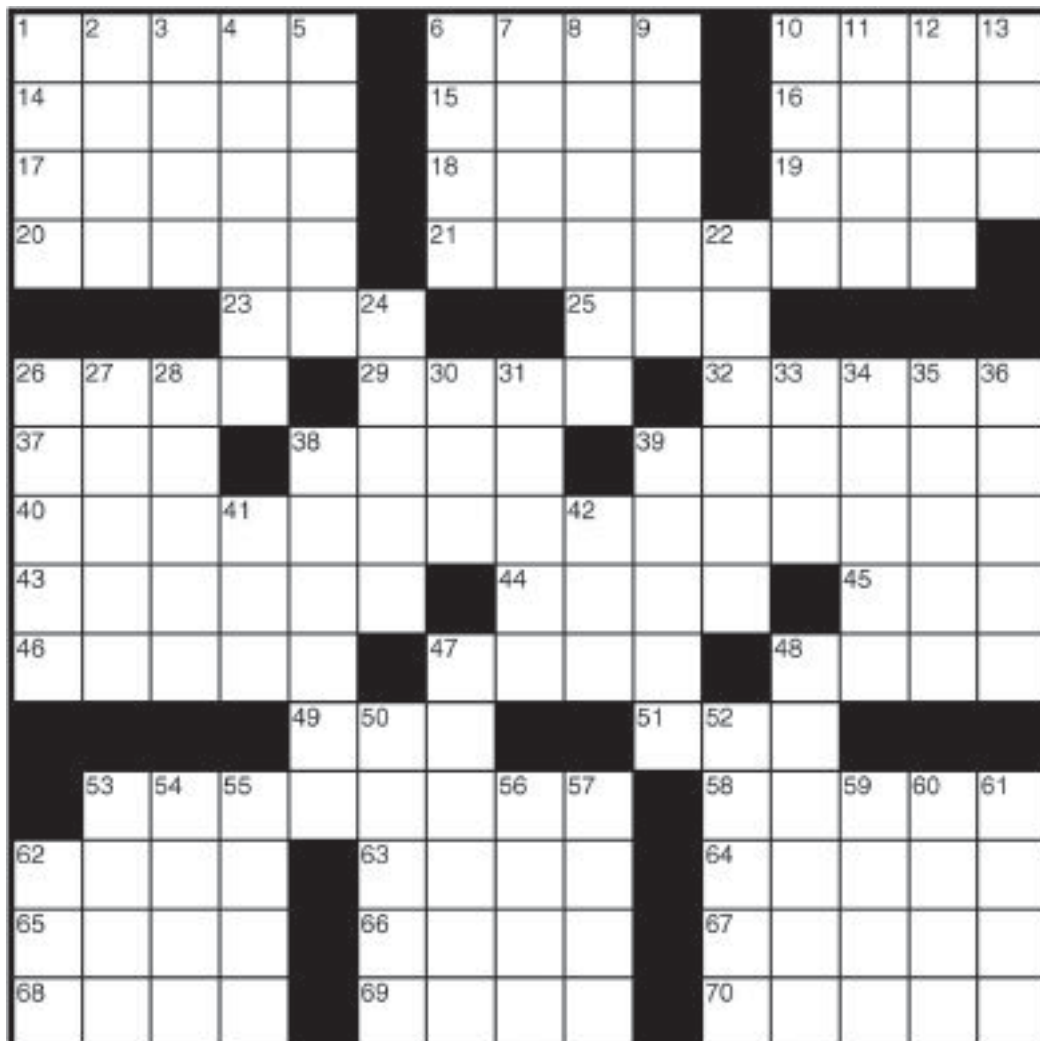
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- 6 Draw with a laser
- 10 Oasis feature
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- 17 Golfer Sam —
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- 19 Handel contemporary
- 20 Upper body
- 21 Pries open
- 23 Startled cries
- 25 Kubrick's computer
- 26 Memo abbr.
- 29 Guard animals of ancient Egypt
- 32 Luau, for one
- 37 Friend, slangily
- 38 Brandish
- 39 Czech capital
- 40 Our ancestors (hyph.)
- 43 Most of the planet
- 44 Piped up
- 45 After taxes
- 46 Changed decor
- 47 Intuit
- 48 Averages
- 49 NASA counterpart
- 51 Sauce in a wok
- 53 Dagwood specialty
- 58 Phoenician port
- 62 Knock — loop
- 63 Purina rival
- 64 Bygone rulers
- 65 Cousin of PDQ
- 66 Very, informally
- 67 Frat-party wear
- 68 Tree trunk
- 69 Inventory wd.
- 70 Blow, as a horse

## Down

- 1 Racetrack start

- 2 Point — return
- 3 Anatomical passage
- 4 Add herbs
- 5 Set up a fund
- 6 Neutral shade
- 7 After that
- 8 Seashells
- 9 Nine-headed monster
- 10 Come again?
- 11 Rochester's Jane
- 12 RN assistants
- 13 Poe's 'Annabel —'
- 22 Lord Tennyson
- 24 Duelers' pride
- 26 More than dislike
- 27 Cease-fire
- 28 Slightly tinted
- 30 Dow Jones fig.
- 31 Kid
- 33 Flair for music
- 34 Booster rocket
- 35 More certain
- 36 Dry runs
- 38 Traveled along
- 39 Collins and Donahue
- 41 Mai — (rum drink)
- 42 — kwon do
- 47 Conked out
- 48 Monty —
- 50 Locusts aplenty
- 52 Sends packing
- 53 Fair (hyph.)
- 54 Shrunken sea
- 55 Where hackles rise
- 56 Audit aces
- 57 Mine, actually
- 59 Shakespeare heavy
- 60 Blacken with heat
- 61 Sec'y
- 62 Marvy

FOR THE ANSWERS  
TO TODAY'S PUZZLES,  
metro.us/games







## metro.us/horoscopes

- Aries** Don't divulge secrets or get involved in matters that could jeopardize your chance to advance. Evaluate what you want to change.
- Taurus** Make plans to do something with friends. Socializing with people who can influence your professional future will be in your best interest.
- Gemini** Don't feel that you have to accommodate everyone. Do what you can, but don't let your emotional or physical wellness suffer.
- Cancer** You'll come up with some cost-effective ideas that will improve your surroundings. Plan a trip that will take you down memory lane.
- Leo** You've got what it takes to get things done. Don't stop or wait for others to catch up. Set your sights on your destination and don't stop.
- Virgo** You'll be pulled in different directions. Don't give in to peer pressure or get involved with people who have bad habits. Avoid indulgence.
- Libra** You can chase your dream if you stop waiting for things to come to you. Line up interviews for the new year or update your resume.
- Scorpio** You'll shine at any event or meeting you take part in, and will impress someone who has more to offer than you realize.
- Sagittarius** Initiate and welcome change in your personal life. Participate in activities that are adventurous and challenging.
- Capricorn** Conversations, emails and people you encounter while traveling or doing research will all contribute to your success.
- Aquarius** Consider what you have been doing and what you want to do with your life. Start to make the changes that bring you happiness.
- Pisces** Don't give in to emotional manipulation. Overreacting, indulgence and taking on too much will hold you back. **EUGENIA LAST**

## metro.us/sudoku

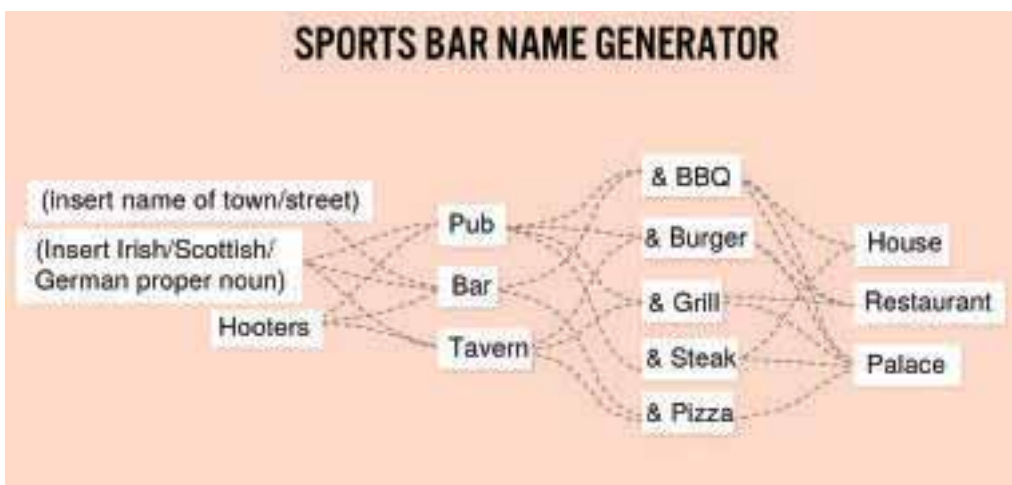
easy

			9		1	8		3
		8			3	4		1
				5				7
		6					8	9
		9	2	3	7	1		
1	7					2		
2				9				
8		1	3			9		
4		5	1		2			

hard

				5				8
8		6	2				4	3
	5		4			1	6	
			5	2		6		
			6		4			
		2		1	3			
	2	5			8		7	
7	1				5	3		6
4				6				

## metro.us/truthfacts



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## metro.us/quiz



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 ON 12/23 AND CHOOSE PREMIUM SHIPPING

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**7 HOURS ONLY! 7AM-2PM FRI & SAT**

**DOORBUSTER**  
**40% + 20% OFF**  
**TOMMY HILFINGER**  
**Doorbuster \$1.20-33.36.**  
 Reg. \$65-69.50,  
 after 2pm: 45.50-  
 48.65. Dress shirts  
 & ties. For example:  
 ★ WebID 2352931.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**75% OFF**  
**CLEARANCE**  
**Doorbuster \$9.88-18.75.**  
 Orig.\* \$39.50-\$75,  
 after 2pm: 14.30-37.50.  
 Dress shirts & ties.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**119.99**  
**OUTERWEAR**  
 Reg./Orig.\* \$275,  
 after 2pm: \$165. Wool-blend  
 and down styles from  
 Anne Klein and more.  
 ★ WebID 2197513.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**39.99**  
**CASHMERE SWEATERS**  
 Reg. \$139, after 2pm: \$99.  
**Only at Macy's.** From Charter  
 Club in turtlenecks & more  
 styles. Misses & petites.  
 ★ WebID 2194585. Women's  
 prices slightly higher.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**9.99**  
**JA JOHN ASHFORD**  
 Reg. \$30-39.50,  
 after 2pm: 19.99.  
**Only at Macy's.**  
 Flannel or knit  
 tops. Shown:  
 ★ WebID 968665.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**75% OFF**  
**OUTERWEAR**  
**Doorbuster \$15-\$35.**  
 Reg. \$60-\$140, after  
 2pm: \$30-\$70. Girls'  
 2-16; boys' 2-20; infants  
 3-24 mos. ★ WebID  
 2325008 & ★ 2261581.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**39.99** **DIAMOND RING**  
 Reg. \$160, after 2pm: \$56.  
 Victoria Townsend  
 1/4 ct. t.w.\* rose-cut  
 in sterling silver (★ WebID  
 2121179) or 18k gold over  
 sterling silver (★ 2121178).



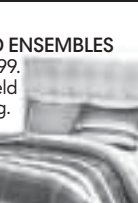
**DOORBUSTER**  
**\$49**  
**CULTURED**  
**FRESHWATER PEARLS**  
 Reg. \$300, after 2pm: \$105.  
 3-pc. set: 7-8mm strand &  
 bracelet and 7mm studs.  
 ★ WebID 1916747.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**70% OFF**  
**14K GOLD CHAINS**  
**Doorbuster \$75-\$2,400.**  
 Reg. \$250-\$8,000,  
 after 2pm: 87.50-\$2,800.  
 For example:  
 ★ WebID 539830.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**39.99** **ALL 8-PC. BED ENSEMBLES**  
 Reg. \$100, after 2pm: \$99.  
**Only at Macy's.** By Fairfield  
 Square Collection. Full-king.  
 Shown: **new** Austin.  
 ★ WebID  
 2383985.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**15.99** **ULTRA PLUSH THROW**  
 Reg. \$40, after 2pm: 19.99.  
**Only at Macy's.**  
 By Charter Club.  
 Polyester.  
 ★ WebID  
 2465005.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**30% + EXTRA 20% OFF**  
**MIXERS**  
**Doorbuster 22.99-415.99.**  
 Reg. 39.99-699.99, after  
 2pm: 29.99-499.99. Shown:  
 KitchenAid Architect 5-qt.  
 stand mixer, #KSM150APS.  
 ★ WebID 393917.



**DOORBUSTER**  
**25% OFF** **REGULAR & ORIG. PRICES**  
**SELECTIONS FOR HER:**  
**SPORTSWEAR, SEPARATES**  
**AND MORE. MISSES,**  
**PETITES & WOMEN**

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**20% OFF** **REGULAR & SALE PRICES**  
**SELECT DRESSES**  
**& SUITS FOR MISSES**

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EXTRA DOLLARS OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS

**\$10 OFF** **YOUR PURCHASE**  
**OF \$25 OR MORE.**

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. VALID 12/18 'TIL 2PM OR 12/19/15 'TIL 2PM.



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EXTRA DOLLARS OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS

**\$20 OFF** **YOUR PURCHASE**  
**OF \$50 OR MORE.**

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00035302107518082119



Excludes: Deals of the Day, Doorbusters, Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, cosmetics/fragrances, electrics/electronics, floor coverings, furniture, mattresses, rugs. Also excludes: athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, Jack Spade, jewelry trunk shows, Kate Spade, Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, New Era, Nike on Field, The North Face, previous purchases, Samsung watches, selected licensed depts., services, special orders, special purchases, Tumi. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$25 or \$50 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.



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